

Importing oil is a bad fix

by Alison Thomson

Canada is quietly going bankrupt importing crude oil, Alberta NDP energy spokesman Jim Russell told about 25 students yesterday at a forum on energy sponsored by the Students' Union and the NDP campus club.

The energy fix Canada is now in can be directly traced to Prime Minister John Diefenbaker's National Oil Policy in the 1950's, Russell said. This policy determined that Western Canada would use Alberta oil and Eastern Canada would import oil.

But developing alternative energy sources is going to be costly, warned Imperial Oil spokesman Brian Hay. Imperial Oil is investing a million dollars per year on alternative energy, he said, and \$36 million per year on research into more efficient use of hydrocarbon energy.

Until Canada is energy self-

sufficient, it will be vulnerable to political disturbances in the Middle East, he said. We have the potential to become self-sufficient within 20 years, but not within ten, he said.

"We are vulnerable to interruptions in our energy supply," said Syncrude spokesman Tutor Williams. "The question is not if such disruption will occur, but when it will occur."

The present confusion about an energy policy for Canada will continue until Trudeau is forced to say "I have the clout to take over" or until Lougheed can find a face-saving way to back down, said Energy and Chemical Workers' Union executive director Reg Basken.

Alberta went into collective bargaining with its final proposal and therefore had room to manoeuvre, said Basken.

The oil companies' Alberta

profits were the subject of some disagreement.

Russell charged the Alberta government is letting the oil companies get away with enormous profits. He said that policy is leading to a perception in the rest of Canada that Alberta is 'giving the shop away'.

Hay said Imperial Oil ploughs back a good deal of its profits into exploration and production. He added the corporation is paying vast amounts of

taxes, to both the provincial and federal governments.

"We can't sneeze without the government saying we'd better use this kind of tissue," said Hay. "Every move we make is either regulated or very strongly influenced by government."

Russell disagreed: "Crucial decisions are made in corporate headquarters in the United States. It's a very efficient method of decision making, but a totally irresponsible one."

He added that a government that makes its decisions in secrecy as does the Alberta government is not much better.

All the panelists agreed that energy prices will have to rise.

But Russell said the people who would be worst hurt by energy price rises should be protected from them. In that respect, he said, last year's Crosbie budget was better than finance minister Allan McEachen's current budget.

Engineers drop petition

by Mike Walker

A plan to petition U of A engineering students for support of Premier Lougheed's October 30 television speech has been scrapped.

The idea for the petition arose out of concern that engineers and other graduates will find jobs more scarce than in the past because of the federal government's energy policy and

recent budget.

"There is a concern in the faculty that the budget is affecting our jobs," said Kelly Scott, president of the Engineering Students' Society (ESS), which was to sponsor the petition. "We felt that if engineers are in trouble, the other faculties would be even harder hit."

The petition's proponents had hoped the petition would be read in both Parliament and the Alberta Legislature, Scott said.

However, the proposal couldn't make it past the ESS Board of Directors (students' council).

"There's some that don't agree with what Lougheed said," according to Scott. "It (the petition) stated that we agreed with the specific statement he made on the 30th."

A petition similar in some respects to the proposed ESS petition is currently being circulated at the University of Calgary. That petition, to be submitted to the federal government, says "Prime Minister Trudeau has stated that the budget of October 28 is for Canadians... Yet, the budget has already shown stifling effects through employment cutbacks."

Battling sexism with sexism

WINNIPEG (CUP) - Despite violating his newspaper's bylaws which disallow printing sexist material, Andy Coyne, editor of University of Manitoba's students' paper the *Manitoban*, will not be removed from his position.

In an open meeting November 25 the *Manitoban's* publishing board decided it had no business firing a *Manitoban* editor, and narrowly voted not to fire Coyne.

The publishing board, however, did vote to censure Coyne for allowing the sexist material into the paper. A motion to dismiss Coyne came before the publishing board after Coyne reinserted three sexist messages into the paper's personal messages column. They had

previously been removed by the editor responsible for the 'messaging' column.

The messages were in violation of the *Manitoban* bylaw stating the newspaper will not print sexist or racist material.

One of the messages was an ad for the "Campus Crusade for" the last word referring to female genitalia.

Immediately after the publishing board meeting, Jim Egan, president of the University of Manitoba Students' Union, vowed to try to disband the publishing board.

He said the publishing board has become ineffective in monitoring the *Manitoban*.

Prior to the publishing board meeting, the Students' Union executive unanimously passed a

resolution suggesting the publishing board fire Coyne.

The publishing board consists of three *Manitoban* appointees, three Students' Union appointees, and three people mutually acceptable to the Students' Union and the newspaper.

They voted five to four in favor of Coyne.

Manitoban staff, at a meeting November 21, decided Coyne intentionally violated the newspaper bylaw and voted to censure their editor. If an editor is censured twice he/she will be fired.

The staff also reaffirmed Coyne as their editor at the same meeting.

Coyne said at the publishing board meeting he found the

messages "personally repugnant, repulsive, sexist, obscene, derogatory, and any other adjectives you want to use." He said he was sorry for offending anyone, but had reasons for publishing them.

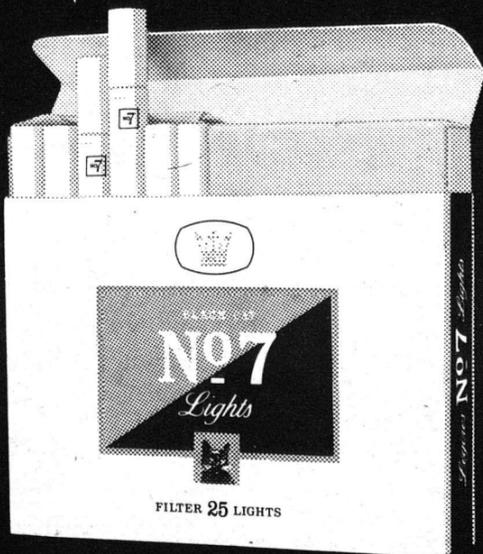
"I think it's been demonstrated by events in the larger world that the fastest way to combat an attitude, the most effective way, is to expose that attitude to argument, public denouncement, ridicule and the like," Coyne said.

Frank Goldspink, one of the mutually agreeable members of the publishing board, said the publishing board should not violate the newspaper's autonomy by over-ruling the staff decision to keep Coyne as editor.

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